

Message Text

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SUBJ: GOF REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF FCC RULING AGAINST
TRANS-ATLANTIC CABLE

REF: HELSINKI 0580

ON FEBURARY 28 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN THE ECONOMIC
COUNSELOR AND HANDED HIM A MEMORANDUM REQUESTING THAT THE
FCC RECONSIDER ITS RULING ON NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLES.
THE TEXT OF THAT MEMORANDUM IS REPRODUCED BELOW.

"1. THE NORTH ATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
LINKING THE USA AND CANADA WITH WESTERN EUROPE CONSISTS
PARTLY OF DIRECT SUBMARINE CABLES AND PARTLY OF CIR-
CUITS VIA INTELSAT SATELLITES.
IN REVIEWING THEIR NETWORK REQUIREMENTS AT A NORTH
ATLANTIC SYSTEMS CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY, 1977, THE
VARIOUS PARTIES CONCERNED DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY THAT
A NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLE (TAT 7) WAS REQUIRED IN 1981
AND THAT IT SHOULD LAND IN THE USA AND THE UK.

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"2. BEFORE A US INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CARRIER IS
LICENSED TO INVEST IN A NEW COMMUNICATION PROJECT
IT HAS TO PROVE BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICA-
TIONS COMMISSION (FCC), THAT THE PROUECT IS RE-
QUIRED AND THAT IT WILL BE USED EFFICIENTLY
OVER ITS LIFE-TIME.
ON 21ST DECEMBER, 1977 THE FCC SET DOWN GUIDELINES

FOR US CARRIERS WHICH EXCLUDE ANY NEW SUBMARINE CABLE BEFORE THE END OF 1985, THEREBY REJECTING THE UNANIMOUS DECISION OF THE ABOVE JOINT CONFERENCE.

"3. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS TO THE US ADMINISTRATION ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIONS GUIDELINES, WHICH APPEAR TO BE ILL FOUNDED. THE DANISH TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATIONS INVOLVED, AND THE US AND CANADIAN CARRIERS ARE UNANIMOUS IN CONCLUDING THAT A NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLE IS A DESIRABLE AND FULLY JUSTIFIED PART OF THE NETWORK AND THAT IT SHOULD BE BUILT BY 1981.

THE TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATIONS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF CEPT (CONFERENCE EUROPEENNE DES ADMINISTRATIONS DES POSTES ET DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS) HAV ALREADY PUT FORWARD DETAILED TECHNICAL COMMENTS TO THE ARGUMENTS OF FCC WITH COPY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

THE DANISH PTT ADMINISTRATION FINDS A BUILT-IN BIAS TOWARDS THE USE OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS IF THE FCC'S GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED BECAUSE THEY RELY TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE USE OF SATELLITE.

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LITES. THE CABLE/SATELLITE RATIO FOR THE NORDIC COUNTRIES WOULD BE 20 PERCENT VIA CABLE AND 80 PERCENT VIA SATELLITE. (THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES WITH A NEW SUBMARINE CABLE IN 1981 ARE 58 PERCENT VERSUS 42 PERCENT.) THIS UNBALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL CIRCUIT NEED BETWEEN THE USA AND DENMARK IS RATHER ALARMING FROM THE SERVICE RELIABILITY ASPECT. THE ALLOCATION OF THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OR CIRCUITS BY SATELLITE IS DEPENDENT ON THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE EARTH STATION FACILITIES. HOWEVER, THE FCC PLAN DOES NOT FORESEE ADDITIONAL ANTENNA FACILITIES IN THE EUROPEAN AREA, AND THE NORDIC COUNTRIES HAVE FOR THE TIME BEING NO PLANS TO MEET THESE IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS. THE COSTS OF THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL COST OF THE SATELLITE PLAN.

IT IS THE FIRM OPINION OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT THAT A NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLE PROVIDES THE ADVANTAGE OF ANOTHER SEPARATE PATH OVER THE ATLANTIC, WHICH IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FROM THE SERVICE RELIABILITY POINT OF VIEW. IT WOULD FURTHER IMPROVE THE NATURAL DEVELOPMENT

OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CABLE INDUSTRY.

"4. IT IS THE WISH OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT
THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE AND THOSE OF THE
ADMINISTRATIONS INVOLVED SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO
THE ATTENTION OF THE US FEDERAL COMMUNICATION
COMMISSION WITH THE AIM OF DEVISING A BASIS
WHICH WILL ALLOW THE MATTER TO BE REOPENED AND
A PLAN SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES TO BE WORKED
OUT.

COPENHAGEN, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1978."

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